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General Assembly

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Seventy-first session
Third Committee

Organization of the work of the Third Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee will be issued in document A/C.3/71/1. Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (see A/71/100).

Programme of work

2. The draft programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, Assembly decision 70/537 on the programme of work of the Third Committee for the seventy-first session, the agenda of the seventy-first session (A/71/150), the first report of the General Committee on the organization of the seventy-first regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (A/71/250), relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the rationalization of its work and that of the Third Committee, as well as past experience in the utilization of conference services.

Question time and interactive dialogues

3. In accordance with the established practice of the Committee and pursuant to paragraphs 3 (c) and (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316 on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, immediately following the introduction of reports by executive heads and senior members of the Secretariat at the beginning of each debate, interactive dialogues and a "question time" will be held with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General, special rapporteurs and other special mechanisms as part of the formal proceedings of the Committee. Delegations are invited to participate actively in these dialogues with questions and unscripted comments. The general discussion of each agenda item or cluster of agenda items is to follow the question time.

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Please recycle

List of speakers

4. The list of speakers for the general discussion on agenda items allocated to the Third Committee will be opened on Monday, 19 September 2016.

5. Requests for inscription received from permanent missions to the United Nations and observer States for the general discussion on agenda items allocated to the Third Committee will be sent electronically through the e-Speakers system. An automated e-mail acknowledgement will be sent within one hour of receipt of the request for inscription. Requests for inscription received from intergovernmental organizations, entities that have observer status with the General Assembly, the United Nations system, including the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, will be sent by e-mail to the Secretariat.

Statements

6. Statements made during the general discussion under each agenda item or cluster of agenda items will be limited to 5 minutes for individual delegations and to 12 minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of delegations.

7. Under item 68 of the agenda, "Promotion and protection of human rights", delegations may make one statement under sub-item (a) and one statement under sub-item (d), which are to be discussed sequentially. Under sub-items (b) and (c), which are to be considered jointly, delegations may make two separate statements, one under sub-item (b) and one under sub-item (c). In the interest of time, however, delegations are encouraged to make only one statement under sub-items (a) and (d), and one statement under sub-items (b) and (c), within the established time limit.

8. Under item 66, "Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", and item 67, "Right of peoples to self-determination", which are to be discussed jointly, delegations may also make two separate statements. Similarly, in the interest of time, delegations are again encouraged to make only one statement within the established time limit.

9. In accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly, delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for the consideration of the relevant agenda item on that day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the item, if that is sooner. The first statement should be limited to five minutes and the second, if any, to three minutes.

List of documents

10. Attention is drawn to the addendum to the present note (A/C.3/71/L.1/Add.1), which lists the documentation submitted under each agenda item expected to be allocated to the Third Committee.

Conference facilities and meeting arrangements

11. Unless otherwise specified, official meetings of the Committee will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. in Conference Room 1 (Conference Building). The General Assembly has stressed that a punctual start of meetings is critical to the efficient utilization of services allocated to the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations. In accordance with past practice, it is proposed that

rule 108 of the Committee's rules of procedure be waived with respect to the quorum needed to declare a meeting open.

Co-sponsorship of draft resolutions and proposals

12. The initiation and co-sponsorship of draft resolutions and other proposals will be undertaken electronically through the eSponsorship application without prejudice to the possibility offered to delegations of co-sponsoring a proposal at the time of its introduction or prior to the Committee's action on the latter. To maximize the efficiency of the Committee, however, all delegations wishing to co-sponsor a proposal are invited to do so electronically through the eSponsorship application rather than during the formal proceedings of the Committee.

Introduction of draft resolutions and proposals

13. In line with efforts to further enhance the efficiency of the Committee, main sponsors are urged to limit the introduction of their proposals to statements not exceeding three minutes. Main sponsors are also discouraged from making a formal introductory statement on a draft resolution upon its issuance as an "L" document and are urged to consider instead making only one introductory statement, if any, prior to action on the draft resolution or proposal.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

14. In paragraph 4 (c) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the Assembly decided that the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" should be considered in its entirety in plenary meeting. Subsequently, it was clarified that, in implementing that decision, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Council that related to agenda items allocated to the Main Committees would be considered by the Committee concerned, for final action by the Assembly (see A/59/250/Add.1, para. 4).

Report of the Human Rights Council

15. In its resolution 65/281, entitled "Review of the Human Rights Council", the General Assembly decided to continue its practice of allocating the item entitled "Report of the Human Rights Council" to the plenary of the Assembly and to the Third Committee, in accordance with its decision 65/503 A, with the understanding that the President of the Council will present the report in her or his capacity as President to the plenary of the Assembly and to the Third Committee and that the Third Committee will hold an interactive dialogue with the President of the Council following the presentation of the report of the Council to the Third Committee.

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

16. Bearing in mind the number of meetings allocated to the Third Committee, a target date of 23 November 2016 has been set for the conclusion of its work. The Committee will, however, endeavour to conclude its work earlier, if possible.

Annex

Draft programme of work of the Third Committee

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
Week of 3-7 October		
Tuesday, 4 October		
10 a.m.		Election of officers
		Organizational matters
	Item 135	**Programme planning**[b]
		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 26	**Social development**
		(a) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family
		(b) Literacy for life: shaping future agendas
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 26
3 p.m.	**Item 26**	General discussion (*continued*)
Wednesday, 5 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 26**	General discussion (*concluded*)
Thursday, 6 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 106	**Crime prevention and criminal justice**
	Item 107	**International drug control**
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 106 and 107
3 p.m.	**Items 106 and 107**	General discussion (*continued*)
Friday, 7 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 106**	General discussion (*concluded*)
	Item 107	

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
Week of 10-14 October		
Monday, 10 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 27	**Advancement of women**
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 27
3 p.m.	**Item 27**	General discussion (*continued*)
Tuesday, 11 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 27**	General discussion (*continued*)
Wednesday, 12 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 27**	General discussion (*concluded*)
3 p.m.		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 64	**Promotion and protection of the rights of children**
		(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children
		(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 64
Thursday, 13 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 64**	General discussion (*continued*)
Friday, 14 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 64**	General discussion (*concluded*)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals under items 26, 106 and 107
Week of 17-21 October		
Monday, 17 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 65	**Rights of indigenous peoples**
		(a) Rights of indigenous peoples
		(b) Follow-up to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 65
3 p.m.	**Item 65**	General discussion (*concluded*)
Tuesday, 18 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Items 68 (a) and (d)	**Promotion and protection of human rights** **(a) Implementation of human rights instruments** Followed by introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of: **(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action**
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 68 (a) and (d)
3 p.m.	**Items 68 (a) and (d)**	General discussion (*continued*)
Wednesday, 19 October		
10 a.m.	**Items 68 (a) and (d)**	General discussion (*concluded*)
3 p.m.		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Items 68 (b) and (c)	**Promotion and protection of human rights** **(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms** **(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives**
Thursday, 20 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 68 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Friday, 21 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 68 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals under items 27, 64, 65 and 68 (a) and (d)

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
Week of 24-28 October		
Monday, 24 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 68 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Tuesday, 25 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 68 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Wednesday, 26 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 68 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Thursday, 27 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 68 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*continued*)
Friday, 28 October		
10 a.m.	**Items 68 (b) and (c)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs, special representatives and independent experts (*concluded*)
3 p.m.		Introduction of proposals under items 26, 27, 64, 65, 68 (a) and (d), 106 and 107, followed by:
	Items 68 (b) and (c)	General discussion
6 p.m.		Closure of list of speakers on items 68 (b) and (c)
Week of 31 October to 4 November		
Monday, 31 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 68 (b) and (c)**	General discussion (*continued and concluded*)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals under items 68 (b) and (c)
Tuesday, 1 November		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 66	**Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
		(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
		(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
	Item 67	**Right of peoples to self-determination**
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 66 and 67
3 p.m.	**Items 66 and 67**	General discussion
Wednesday, 2 November		
10 a.m.	**Items 66 and 67**	General discussion (*concluded*)
3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 60	**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions**
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 60
Thursday, 3 November		
10 a.m.	**Item 60**	General discussion (*concluded*)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals under items 60, 66 and 67
3 p.m.		Introduction of proposals under items 68 (b) and (c),
		followed by:
		Action on proposals
Friday, 4 November		
10 a.m.		Introductory statement by the President of the Human Rights Council, followed by an interactive dialogue and general discussion of:
	Item 63	**Report of the Human Rights Council**
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers and deadline for submission of proposals under item 63

Date/time	*Item/programme*[a]	
Week of 7-11 November		
Tuesday, 8 November		
3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Thursday, 10 November		
10 a.m.		Action on proposals
3 p.m.		Introduction of proposals under items 60, 63, 66 and 67 followed by:
		Action on proposals
Week of 14-18 November		
Tuesday, 15 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Wednesday, 16 November		
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of all revised texts of proposals
Thursday, 17 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Week of 21-25 November		
Monday, 21 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Tuesday, 22 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Wednesday, 23 November		
10 a.m.		Action on proposals
	Item 121	**Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly**[c]
		Action on outstanding proposals
		Conclusion of the work of the Third Committee

[a] Item of the agenda (A/71/250).

[b] This item is to be allocated to all the Main Committees to enhance discussion of evaluation, planning, budgeting and monitoring reports.

[c] This item is to be allocated to the Third Committee for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on the tentative programme of work of the Committee for the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.